

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Previously Presented): Mixing device for mixing air and water in a water purifier, wherein:

the mixing device (1) comprises a water inlet pipe (2) and an air inlet pipe (3),

the air inlet pipe (3) extends coaxially within the water inlet pipe (2) and defines therewith an annular gap (4) for providing an annular water jet,

downstream of the annular gap (4) there is provided a mixing member (6) for mixing water and air, and

the mixing member (6) includes a water flow disturbing device (7) which is provided to be hit by the annular water jet,

at least those parts (2a) of the water inlet pipe (2) and/or those parts (3a) of the air inlet pipe (3) which define the annular gap (4), consist of plastic material, and

the water flow disturbing device (7) includes at least one helical means (8) which extends along the inner side of the mixing member (6) around through-flow portions (6a) thereof within said helical means (8) such that helical movements are imparted to the annular jet of water when it flows downwards through said through-flow portions (6a).

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): Mixing device according to claim 1,
wherein the plastic material which said parts (2a and/or 3a) of the water inlet pipe (2)
and/or the air inlet pipe (3) consist of, is olefine polymer.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): Mixing device according to claim 2,
wherein said olefine polymer is polyethylene.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): Mixing device according to claim 1,
wherein the helical means (8) has the shape of a wire.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): Mixing device according to claim 4,
wherein the helical means (8) is a metal wire.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): Mixing device according to claim 1,
wherein the helical means (8) is located on the inner side of a tube (9) forming part
of the mixing member (6).

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): Mixing device according to claim 6,
wherein the helical means (8) extends along the entire or at least the major part of
the mixing member (6).

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): Mixing device according to claim 1,
wherein:

the helical means (8) consists of a helical spring having a diameter which is greater than the inner diameter of the mixing member (6),
the spring can be screwed together for reducing its diameter such that it can be inserted into the mixing member (6), and
the helical spring, by being released after insertion into the mixing member (6), can be brought to expand until it with pressure engages the inner side of the mixing member (6).

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): Mixing device according to claim 8,
wherein the helical spring can be removed or withdrawn from the mixing member (6) by screwing together said spring for reducing its diameter.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): Mixing device according to claim 1,
wherein the through-flow portion (6a) is provided with no parts or members within the helical means (8).

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): Mixing device according to claim 1,
wherein the mixing member (6) includes a tube (9) which interiorly is of uniform thickness.

Claim 12 (Canceled)

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): Mixing device according to claim 1, wherein plastic parts (2a) of the water inlet pipe (2) and metal parts of the mixing member (6) are interconnected by means of a pipe coupling (10) of metal material.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): Mixing device according to claim 1, wherein a flow control means (5) is provided for controlling the flow through the annular gap (4).